REMARKS

Claims 1-141 are pending in the present application. Claims 15, 60, and 105 are canceled. Claims 1, 46, and 91 are amended to incorporate subject matter originally presented in claims 15, 60, and 105, respectively. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit formal drawings as requested by the Office Action.

I.   35 U.S.C. § 102, Anticipation

The Office Action rejects claims 1-141 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by *Scheuring et al.* (US Patent Publication No. 2002/0131565). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to claim 1, the Office Action states:

> As to claim 1, Scheuirng discloses a calendaring system for a life management. Applicant should duly note that Scheuring defines contact by including such information as type of living organism, individual relationship, emotion relationship and time shown to the contact when the contact wants to schedule an event with the user ([0065]). Scheuring discloses the claimed "retrieving dynamic contact records for a plurality of entities from one or more systems representing a dynamic contact information service" as determining if it is acceptable to authorize an invitation by looking up preferences set by a user which allow to automatically schedule events in response to invitations ([0027]), [0062], [0066]-[0069], [0070]; and "providing dynamic contact records to one or more status servers" as notifying the inviter of the acceptance and adding the event to the user's calendar by updating the database to reflect the newly scheduled event ([0062], [0074], [0075]).

Office Action, dated December 3, 2003. Applicants respectfully disagree. *Scheuring* teaches a system for life management using calendaring. The system comprises a calendaring engine, an event engine, a life manager engine, a portrait gallery engine, a voicemail engine, a call scheduler engine, a drive time calculation engine, and an information gathering engine. Users may enter data into three a plurality calendars including a business calendar, a personal calendar, and a chores calendar. The event engine enables a user to schedule an event with other participants. The life manager engine manages time so that users can maintain a certain lifestyle that they desire. The

life manager does not allow a user to schedule events in a way that is unrealistic without first warning the user. *Scheuring* also teaches other features for life management, such as meters/gauges, emotional relationships, and triggered services.

More particularly, a relevant cited portion of *Scheuring* states:

> A second method comprises: scheduling an event or telephone conference; sending invitations to invitees; receiving responses from invitees; notifying the moderator (inviter) of the responses; receiving the inviter' determination regarding scheduling of meeting based on the responses; notifying the invitees of cancellation if the inviter so determines; proposed rescheduling of the event by repeating the above steps; or dropping the invitee and continuing with scheduling method. If the invitee is dropped, the method further comprises notifying the invitee of being dropped. Whether or not the invitee is dropped, the method further comprises sending reminders to the remaining invitees; notifying the moderator to start the call; providing schedule status update to the invitees; notifying invitees to start the call at the scheduled time; receiving invitee availability; notifying the moderator about real time invitee availability; enabling the moderator to determine whether to cancel the call due to unavailability of some invitees, bump the call, or continue the call; starting the call; and sending a list of participants to all invitees or only call participants.

Scheuring, paragraph [0027]. Thus, invitations for scheduled events are sent directly from an inviter to an invitee. In other words, event data is sent from one consumer device directly to another consumer device without the need for a server.

In contradistinction, the present invention provides a mechanism that facilitates providing dynamic contact information using one or more status servers. For example, claim 1 recites:

> 1.   A method in a computer system for providing dynamic contact information, said method comprising the steps of:
> establishing a status system, including at least one status server and at least one client;
> specifying for each client a second plurality of entities for which the client subscribes to automatic updates of dynamic contact information;
> retrieving dynamic contact records for a plurality of entities from one or more systems within the status system; and
> providing dynamic contact records to the at least one server; and

sending, using said at least one status server, each said current dynamic contact record to each said client that has subscribed to updates for the entity whose dynamic contact information is contained in said current dynamic contact record.

Scheuring does not teach or suggest retrieving dynamic contact records for a plurality of entities from one or more systems within **a status system** and providing dynamic contact records to at least one **status servers**, as recited in claim 1. **FIG. 1** of *Scheuring* is reproduced below for illustration:
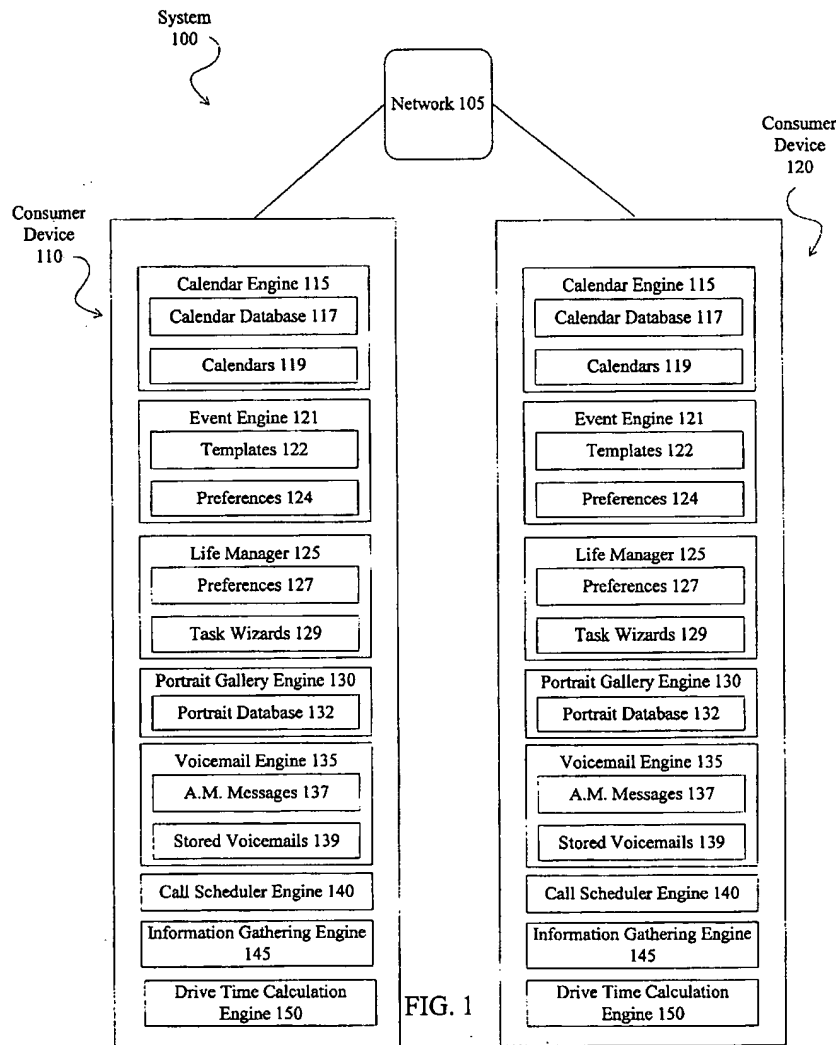
FIG. 1

As shown in **FIG. 1** of *Scheuring*, a server is not used to collect dynamic contact records of participants. As shown in the above cited portion, reminders, schedule status updates, and invitee availability information are passed directly from consumer device to consumer device.

Another relevant portion of *Scheuring* states:

> Preferences **127** are set by a user and if set, enable life manager **125** to automatically schedule events in response to invitations from other users. Life manager **125**, when receiving an invitation, first determines if it is allowed to accept or reject the invitation based on preferences **127**. If the preferences **127** is set, then the life manager **125** determines the user's availability by examining the calendar database **117** for free time and also examining the user's portrait database **132** to examine the inviter's portrait, which will be discussed further below. For example, if a user receives an invitation for an event scheduled next Tuesday at 1 PM, the life manager **125** first determines if it is authorized to accept or decline the invitation by looking up preferences **127**. If the life manager **125** is not authorized, the life manager **125** queries the user whether he or she wishes to accept. If the life manager **125** is authorized, then the life manager **125** first looks up the user's portrait for the inviter in database **132** to determine the nature of the relationship (e.g., friendly or not). If the portrait indicates that the relationship is acceptable, the life manager **125** then examines the user's schedule in calendar database **117** to determine if the user is available at the time of the event (e.g., next Tuesday at 1 PM). If the user is available, then the life manager **125** may accept the invitation, notify the inviter of the acceptance, and add the event to the user's calendar by updating database **117** to reflect the newly scheduled event.

Scheuring, paragraph [0062]. *Scheuring* teaches that a life manager must examine a calendar database to determine if the user of that device is available. *Scheuring* does not teach a dynamic contact information service or one or more status servers that gathers dynamic contact information for participants of an event. That is, *Scheuring* does not teach a service through which a user may obtain dynamic contact information for other users. Rather, *Scheuring* teaches that such information must be passed from consumer device to consumer device at the discretion of the users of those devices.

Claim 1 is also amended to incorporate subject matter originally presented in claim 15. With respect to claim 15, the Office action states:

> As to claim 15, Scheuring discloses the claimed "establishing a status system, including at least one status server to serve as said status server and at least one client" ([0027], [0062], [0066]-[0069], [0070]);

specifying for each client a second plurality of entities for which the client subscribes to automatic updates of dynamic contact information: ([0062], [0074], [0075]); and "sending, using said status server, each said current dynamic contact record to each said client that has subscribed to updates for the entity whose dynamic contact information is contained in said current dynamic contact record" ([0027], [0062], [0066]-[0069], [0070]).

Office Action, dated December 3, 2003. Applicants respectfully disagree. The cited portions of *Scheuring* teach various engines that operate within a given consumer device. There is no mention whatsoever of an ability of a client to **subscribe** to receive automatic updates of dynamic contact information. *Scheuring* also fails to teach or suggest a **status server** that sends current dynamic contact records to each client that has subscribed to updates for entities whose dynamic contact information is contained in received dynamic contact records, as now recited in amended claim 1 and originally presented in claim 15 (now canceled). Rather, *Scheuring* teaches that a consumer device must receive any updated information directly from another consumer device at the discretion of the user of the consumer device. Therefore, using the *Scheuring* system, if a user does not turn on her consumer device if she is on vacation, for example, other participants will not receive current contact information. On the other hand, the present invention provides a status system through which clients may subscribe to current dynamic contact information.

The applied reference fails to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation; therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by *Scheuring*. Independent claims 46 and 91 recite subject matter addressed above with respect to claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons. Since claims 2-14, 16-45, 47-59, 61-90, 92-104, and 106-135 depend from claims 1, 46, and 91, the same distinctions between *Scheuring* and the invention recited in claim 1, 46, and 91 apply for these claims. Additionally, claims 2-14, 16-45, 47-59, 61-90, 92-104, and 106-135 recite other additional combinations of features not suggested by the reference.

More particularly, with respect to claim 2, the Office Action states:

As to claim 2, Scheuring discloses the claimed "establishing the dynamic contact information service that provides dynamic-contact records for said plurality of entities, each one of said dynamic-contact records being dynamically updated to indicate current contact information for one of said plurality of entities" as adding the event to the user's

calendar by updating the database to reflect the newly scheduled event ([0062], [0074], [0075]).

Office Action, dated December 3, 2003. Applicants respectfully disagree. While *Scheuring* may teach associating a user's availability or contact information with the user's schedule, *Scheuring* does not teach or suggest dynamically updating dynamic contact records **in a dynamic contact information service**, as recited in claim 2. As stated above, *Scheuring* fails to teach or suggest a status service including at least one status server. Therefore, it follows that *Scheuring* fails to teach or suggest the further limitations of claim 2. Since the applied reference does not teach each and every claim limitation, claim 2 is not anticipated by *Scheuring*.

> Furthermore, claim 4 recites:

> 4.   The method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of including within each said dynamic contact information a current telephone type, current telephone status, current telephone number, current telephone status time period, office telephone number, voice-mail status, and voice-mail checking frequency information for one of said plurality of entities associated with each said dynamic contact information.

However, contrary to the Office Action's assertions, *Scheuring* does not teach or suggest, for example, "voice-mail checking frequency information." The Office Action merely cites seemingly arbitrary, albeit lengthy, portions of the reference as allegedly teaching the claim limitations. However, the Office Action proffers no analysis as to why the teachings of *Scheuring* are somehow equivalent to the claimed invention. The applied reference fails to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation; therefore, claim 4 is not anticipated by *Scheuring*. Claims 49 and 94 recite subject matter addressed above with respect to claim 4 and are allowable for the same reasons.

> Similarly, claim 32 recites:

> 32.   The method according to claim 17, further comprising the step of displaying said information including within said display an e-mail address and e-mail checking frequency information for each of said second plurality of entities.

However, contrary to the Office Action's assertions, *Scheuring* does not teach or suggest, for example, "e-mail checking frequency information." The Office Action merely cites seemingly arbitrary, albeit lengthy, portions of the reference as allegedly teaching the

claim limitations. However, the Office Action proffers no analysis as to why the teachings of *Scheuring* are somehow equivalent to the claimed invention. The applied reference fails to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation; therefore, claim 32 is not anticipated by *Scheuring*. Claims 77 and 122 recite subject matter addressed above with respect to claim 32 and are allowable for the same reasons.

As a further example, claim 36 recites:

36.   The method according to claim 17, further comprising the steps of:
        hovering a cursor over a name of said one of said second plurality
of entities; and
        displaying a full status message.

However, contrary to the Office Action's assertions, *Scheuring* does not teach or suggest, for example, "hovering a cursor over a name of said one of said second plurality of entities." The Office Action merely cites seemingly arbitrary portions of the reference as allegedly teaching the claim limitations. However, these cited portions make no mention whatsoever of hovering a cursor over a name and the Office Action proffers no analysis as to why the teachings of *Scheuring* are somehow equivalent to the claimed invention. The applied reference fails to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation; therefore, claim 36 is not anticipated by *Scheuring*. Claims 81 and 126 recite subject matter addressed above with respect to claim 36 and are allowable for the same reasons.

Still further, independent claim 136 recites:

136.   A method in a data processing system for managing dynamic
contact information, the method comprising:
        maintaining a user status for the user, wherein the user status is
provided to a group of users;
        receiving dynamic contact information from a client for a user,
wherein the dynamic contact information is automatically sent to the data
processing system by the client in response to a change in a calendar on
the client; and
        responsive to receiving the dynamic contact information,
selectively changing the user status for the user based on receiving the
dynamic contact information.

However, contrary to the Office Action's assertions, *Scheuring* does not teach or suggest, for example, "receiving dynamic contact information **from a client for a user**, wherein the dynamic contact information is automatically sent to the data processing system by the client **in response to a change in a calendar** on the client" and "responsive to

receiving the dynamic contact information, selectively changing the user status for the user based on receiving the dynamic contact information." The Office Action does not specifically address claim 136. The applied reference fails to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation; therefore, claim 136 is not anticipated by *Scheuring*. Since claims 137-141 depend from claim 136, the same distinctions between *Scheuring* and the invention recited in claim 136 apply for these claims. Additionally, claims 137-141 recite other additional combinations of features not suggested by the reference.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-141 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Furthermore, *Scheuring* does not teach, suggest, or give any incentive to make the needed changes to reach the presently claimed invention. *Scheuring* actually teaches away from the presently claimed invention because it teaches a consumer device to consumer device communication, as opposed to a status service, as in the presently claimed invention. Absent the Office Action pointing out some teaching or incentive to implement *Scheuring* to form a server-based service, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be led to modify *Scheuring* to reach the present invention when the reference is examined as a whole. Absent some teaching, suggestion, or incentive to modify *Scheuring* in this manner, the presently claimed invention can be reached only through an improper use of hindsight using Applicants' disclosure as a template to make the necessary changes to reach the claimed invention.
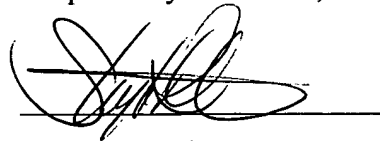
II.   Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the prior art of record and is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: _March 3, 2004_

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen R. Tkacs
Reg. No. 46,430
Carstens, Yee & Cahoon, LLP
P.O. Box 802334
Dallas, TX 75380
(972) 367-2001
Agent for Applicants